

The Yolo Superior Court will hold a court proceeding and formal ceremony on May 24, 2010 for graduates of the Court's Felony Probation Drug Court. The ceremony will be at 1:30 p.m. in Dept. 1 of the Courthouse located at 725 Court Street in Woodland. Judge Janet Gaard will preside over the ceremony.

The Felony Probation Drug Court has been operating in Yolo County since 1999. The adult drug court is for prison bound defendants who have been convicted of non-violent crimes and have significant drug/alcohol addictions. It offers criminal defendants an opportunity to be successful in treatment instead of going to state prison.

Three men are scheduled to graduate on the 24th, saving taxpayers \$558,538. The savings is based on the annual cost of \$52,363 for incarceration as determined by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Collectively the three graduates were subjected to suspended sentences of 10 years and 8 months in state prison.

All graduates have successfully completed a local intensive treatment program, have a minimum of one year sobriety, are gainfully employed, have committed no new crimes, and have satisfied all other Felony Probation Drug Court requirements.

According to Judge Janet Gaard who presides over the Drug Court Calendar, "The success of the program reflects a strong collaboration between local governmental agencies and treatment providers to make a real difference in people's lives." Representatives from these agencies and providers will attend the ceremony to offer their congratulations to the graduates.

"The graduates have become productive and responsible members of the community who have turned their lives around through hard work and dedication," Florence Gainor Drug Court Coordinator added.

"Over the years, the Felony Probation Drug Court program has provided treatment and drug rehabilitation to dozens of local residents, has enabled them to reconnect with their families and communities, has saved taxpayers millions of dollars in prison costs, and has allowed these folks to get jobs, earn money, pay their own taxes, and become productive members of society," said Presiding Superior Court Judge David Rosenberg. "It's a win-win-win scenario all around."